

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings†

California Medical Association. Session will convene in Los Angeles. Headquarters, Hotel Biltmore, 5th and Olive Sts. Dates of meetings: Tuesday, May 7-Friday, May 10, 1946.

American Medical Association. The next annual session of the American Medical Association will be held in San Francisco, July 1-5, 1946. (Monday-Friday, inclusive.)

The Platform of the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association advocates:

1. *The establishment of an agency of Federal Government under which shall be coördinated and administered all medical and health functions of the Federal Government, exclusive of these of the Army and Navy.*

2. *The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the care of the sick or proof of such need.*

3. *The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.*

4. *The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

5. *The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

6. *In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.*

7. *The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical service and to increase their availability.*

8. *Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.*

(Ed. Note.—Interpretative comments on principles included in the A.M.A. platform appear in *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE* for December, 1939, on pages 394-395. For subsequent comment, see *J.A.M.A.*, June 24, 1944, pp. 574-576. Also, August, 1945, *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, pp. 61-62.) On p. 61 (C.M.A.) and p. 62 (A.M.A.)

Medical Broadcasts*

The Los Angeles County Medical Association:

In February KFAC will present broadcasts on Saturdays at 10:15 a.m.; February 2, 9, 16, and 23.

The Saturday broadcasts of KFI are given at 9:45 a.m., under this title, "The Road to Health."

"Doctors at War":

For radio broadcasts of "Doctors at War" by the American Medical Association, see *J.A.M.A.*

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week. In *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, some rosters appear in every second or third issue.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged.

Pharmacological Items of Potential Interest to Clinicians*:

1. *Journals of the Year:* American Geriatrics Society announces *Geriatrics*, published by *Modern Medicine*, Minneapolis. So C. C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., offers *Journal of Gerontology*, edited by R. A. Moore, at \$6 yearly, with \$3 for annual non-technical supplement. B. Schwabe, Basel, Switzerland, announces that *Helvetica Medica Acta* will forthwith be joined by new *Helvetica Chirurgica Acta* and *Helvetica Paediatrica Acta*, 6 issues yearly at 42 Sw. Fr. each. Academic Press, N. Y., offers *Journal of Colloid Science*, edited by V. K. LaMer, at \$10. Schuman's, 20 E. 70th, N. Y. 21, sponsors *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, at \$7.50, edited by G. Rosen, with interesting articles by C. Singer, J. C. Trent, G. Urdang, J. B. de C. M. Saunders, P. I. Nixon & Co. S. R. Detwiler gives well deserved tribute to grand old editorial board of *The Journal of Experimental Zoology* (*Science*, 102:610, Dec. 14, 1945). English physiologists offer helpful suggestions to authors (Ed. Bd., *J. Physiol.*, 104:221, 1945).

2. *Reviews and Symposia:* Note G. W. Beadle's keen survey of biochemical genetics, including data on cancer (*Chem. Rev.*, 37:15, 1945). W. B. Cannon and R. M. Field well review international relations in science (*Chron. Bot.*, 9:253, 1945). A. F. Barena summarizes data on ocular onchocerciasis (*Arch. Aso. evit. Ceg. Mexico*, 3:49, 1945). B. A. McSwiney's Penser Lecture covers visceral sensation (*Irish J. Med. Sci.*, 6th ser., No. 239, Nov., 1945). J. N. Davidson's fine Gillespie Lecture is on nucleoproteins in growth and development (*Edin. Med. J.*, 52:344, 1945). Sir Howard Florey's Lister Lecture on use of microorganisms for therapeutic purposes appears (*Brit. Med. J.*, 2:635, Nov. 10, 1945). A. Ritter reviews use of catgut sutures (*Helv. Med. Acta, Suppl.* 15, 1945). English authorities give comprehensive symposium on dermatology (*Brit. Med. Bull.*, 3:158-197, 1945). Forty-two friends of I. Chavez offer valuable contributions on cardiology in honor of his 25 professional years (*Libro Homenaje al Prof. Dr. Ignacio Chavez*, Nat. Univ., Mexico, 1945). W. B. Bean reviews cutaneous vascular "spider" (*Med.*, 24:243, 1945).

3. *Histamine:* W. J. Kerr & Co. report histamine-like material in nasal secretions of "common cold" and allergic rhinitis (*Am. J. Physiol.*, 144:706, 1945). Mayo Clinic staff note value of new anti-histamine compound, p-dimethylamino-ethyl benzhydryl ether HCl, Parke-Davis (*Proc. Staff Meetings, Mayo Clinic*, 20:417, Nov. 14, 1945). This is confirmed by our W. A. Selle, who has mss. on histamine with over 400 references.

4. *BAL:* British Anti-Lewisite, effective heavy metal detoxicant, is finally revealed by R. A. Peters, L. L. Waters and C. Stock as 2,3-dithiopropanol (*Science*, 102:601, Dec. 14, 1945; *Nature*, Nov. 24, 1945). Acting by competing with proteins for arsenic it prevents inhibition of enzyme systems by heavy metals and reactivates such poisoned enzymes. Although irritating and toxic it is clinically useful in heavy metal poisoning. How about cyanide?

* These items submitted by Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, formerly director of the University of California Pharmacological Laboratory, now dean of the University of Texas Medical School, Galveston, Texas.

5. *Toward a Better New Year*: Univ. of California Press offers *United Nations Charter and Accompanying Documents* (2 vols., \$17.50). Commonwealth Fund publishes studies of N. Y. Academy of Medicine Committee on Medicine and the Changing Order; E. J. Stieglitz's *A Future for Preventive Medicine* is out (Commonwealth, 41 E. 57th, N. Y. 22, 95 pp., \$1). Princeton Press announces History of Ideas Series, of which B. N. Nelson's *Idea of Usury* and M. H. Nicolson's *Newton Demands the Muse* sound promising (resp.: 150 and 175 pp., \$2 and \$2.50).

6. ETC.: S. Mazza & Co. report studies on Chagas disease (*Pub. 69, Univ. Buenos Aires, Mis. Est. Patol. Reg. Argentina*, 1945). E. Singer further emphasizes intracellular oxidases in detoxication of bacterial toxins (*Austral. J. Exp. Biol. Med. Sci.*, 23:165, 171, 1945). J. Gillman & Co. find phryoderma not due to vitamin A deficiency (*S. Afr. J. Med. Sci.*, 10:67, 1945). P. Yazigi & Co. discuss failure of anatomical repair in cirrhosis of liver (*Rev. Med. Chile*, 73:755, 1945). E. W. Page reports on dopa decarboxylase activity of human tissues (*Arch. Biochem.*, 8:145, 1945). R. C. Herrin and W. J. Meek demonstrate vomiting from afferent stimulation by intestinal distention (*Am. J. Physiol.*, 144:720, 1945). G. L. Engel & Co. continue quantitative E.E.G. studies, comparing anoxia, acute alcoholism and hypoglycemia (*J. Clin. Invest.*, 24:691, 1945). Our E. H. Frieden and C. N. Frazier find blood plasma enhances penicillin action (*J. Bact.*, 50:279, 1945). Our C. M. Pomerat notes inhibition of reticuloendothelial immune serum on growth of Walker rat sarcoma in vitro (*Cancer Res.*, 5:724, 1945). Our H. J. Ralston and A. N. Taylor observe streamline blood flow in arteries and indicate its importance in work of heart (*Am. J. Physiol.*, 144:706, 1945).

Stanford Medical School Receives Paralysis Grant.—Stanford University School of Medicine has received a grant of \$17,310 from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, it was announced on January 20 by Dr. Donald B. Tresidder, president of the university, and Basil O'Connor, foundation president.

The grant, to be used for infantile paralysis research, supplements \$60,490 previously given to the school for the same purpose.

Funds for all such grants come from contributions to the March of Dimes.

Dr. Karl F. Meyer, director of the Hooper Foundation at the University of California Hospital, urged citizens to back that March of Dimes appeal and its scientific research program.

Half the money to be raised in the current campaign will go to the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and the remainder will be used to provide care for local victims of polio during the coming year.

Dr. Meyer pointed to San Francisco as an area of unexpected polio status. During 1944, the incidence of infantile paralysis was normal, but last year there were 82 cases.

While polio has not yet been controlled, gains have been made in reducing paralysis and the mortality rate, Dr. Meyer said. Fifty per cent of patients have completely recovered and the mortality rate has dropped to less than nine per cent.

Encephalitis Work Revealed at U.C.—Isolation for the first time in California of the St. Louis type encephalitis virus and proof that the common mosquito is the most important carrier of horse type encephalitis infection in San Joaquin Valley have been reported by the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research on the San Francisco campus of the University of California.

Presence of the St. Louis type virus in California was suspected, but had not been proved. The virus was isolated from a common mosquito caught in Kern County.

The Hooper researchers, Dr. W. McD. Hammon and Dr. W. C. Reeves, have also verified that the outstanding sources of horse and St. Louis encephalitis viruses for mosquitos are fowl, both domestic and wild.

The conclusions are the result of a study of an epidemic in 1943 of horse encephalitis in Kern County and of recent research in the same area.

The scientists tested blood specimens from 203 human patients who were hospitalized with encephalitis symptoms indicating damage to the central nervous system. Blood tests showed some of these patients were infected with western equine and St. Louis encephalitis viruses, the former predominating.

More than ten thousand insects were gathered, including mosquitos. From these, 31 strains of western equine encephalitis virus were taken, while one new virus was found. Twenty-eight of the 31 strains were from *Culex tarsalis*, a common mosquito.

Walter Jarvis Barlow Society for the History of Medicine.—The late Dr. Walter Jarvis Barlow of Los Angeles, was the founder of the Barlow Sanatorium and also of the Barlow Medical Library (the latter since amalgamated with the library of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.)

In his memory a group of Los Angeles colleagues added to their group on historical studies, his name. A recent announcement gives the following information:

The Walter Jarvis Barlow Society for the History of Medicine, invites members of the Los Angeles County Medical Association to meet with them in the Library of the Association on Thursday evening, January 24.

Herbert N. Evans, M.D., director of the Institute of Experimental Biology of Berkeley, California, will be the speaker for the evening. His subject will be: Bernardo Houssay, Argentine Physiologist. This will be abundantly illustrated with lantern slides.

The meetings will be called to order at 8:00 p.m.

Disease Prevention Week Again Scheduled.—Disease Prevention Week, introduced last year, again will be observed February 17-24 in Los Angeles city and county.

The event will be conducted by the association in co-operation with city and county health departments and social and welfare agencies.

Inoculations to prevent whooping cough, diphtheria and smallpox, and tests to determine presence of tuberculosis, syphilis and gonorrhea will be urged. When the latter infections are detected, victims will be advised to start treatments promptly.

An exhibit in the county museum, Exposition Park, will show latest methods in combatting the six ailments.

American Urological Association: Urology Award.—The American Urological Association offers an annual award "not to exceed \$500" for an essay (or essays) on the result of some specific clinical or laboratory research in Urology. The amount of the prize is based on the merits of the work presented, and if the Committee on Scientific Research deem none of the offerings worthy, no award will be made. Competitors shall be limited to residents in urology in recognized hospitals and to urologists who have been in such specific practice for not more than five years. All interested should write the Secretary, for full particulars.

The selected essay (or essays) will appear on the program of the forthcoming meeting of the American Urological Association, to be held at the Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio, July 22-25, 1946.

Essays must be in the hands of the Secretary, Dr. Thomas D. Moore, 899 Madison Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, on or before July 1, 1946.

Prize Contest in Obstetrics.—The American Association of Obstetricians, Gynecologists and Abdominal Surgeons Foundation announces that the annual prize contest will be conducted again this year. For information address: Dr. Jas. R. Bloss, Secretary, 418 11th Street, Huntington 1, W. Va.

Lasker Foundation Awards \$500.—An alert, eighty-five year old scientist, Robert Latou Dickinson, M.D., one of the country's leading gynecologists and obstetricians, and Virginia's progressive State Health Commissioner, Irl Cephas Riggan, M.D. will be the recipients of the 1946 Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation awards for the most significant contribution to research in human fertility, and for meritorious public health service.

Dr. Dickinson has devoted more than a quarter of a century to furthering knowledge about human fertility and its control, as gynecologist, anatomist, educator, scholar and artist.

Dr. Riggan, who is also president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, has led Virginia in becoming the seventh state in the Union to make planned parenthood services available as part of the state's Public Health Program of maternal care. The program he has initiated includes noteworthy cooperation between the Virginia League of Planned Parenthood and the State Health Department, in making available a full time Public Health educator to interpret the value of planned parenthood throughout the state.

Penicillin for European Countries.—The drug, penicillin, will be continuously available in several European countries as result of arrangements which are being made by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, in cooperation with the Canadian government, it was announced on January 11, 1946, in Washington.

In at least three countries, and possibly more, the governments will set up plants to manufacture the drug, under plans obtained and supplied by United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and this agency will supply necessary component parts for the manufacturing process.

Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia will set up the first plants, under government ownership and operation, and other countries may join in the program later, though this has not yet been decided. The plans supplied by UNRRA to the countries are designed to implement production of 15 to 20 billion units of the drug each month from each factory.

Dr. I. V. Sollins, of UNRRA's medical and sanitation supplies division, completed arrangements on behalf of the three governments which will establish the plants.

The entire project is an international one. The plans were obtained through cooperation of a Canadian laboratory now manufacturing penicillin. The vats, tanks, and other component laboratory parts will be obtained by UNRRA in the United States. The three governments will obtain or erect the necessary buildings.

The reason the governments requested the aid in setting up the plants is that they fear that when UNRRA ceases operation at the end of 1946 that they will be cut off from penicillin supplies.

The Canadian plant, where the European government representatives will be trained is close in both size and technique to the ones which the Polish, Czechoslovakian and Yugoslavian governments will establish. Thus, the training will prepare the European scientists to get the plants in their countries under way with a minimum of difficulty.

When commercial production of penicillin first started, the molds from which the drug is derived were raised in flasks and the plants contained thousands of them. Since that time, newer methods have been developed and now large vats have been substituted for the innumerable small flasks. UNRRA will supply the vats and the extraction apparatus as its part of the program.

UNRRA engineers and scientists are now at work on procurement of the necessary component parts for the European establishments so that they may be purchased and shipped to arrive in Europe by the time the governments there prepare the buildings for them and the trained personnel returns. The joint international plans call for the government plants to be in operation by the end of 1946.

National Gastroenterological Association 1946 Award Contest.—The National Gastroenterological Association announces the establishment of an Annual Cash Prize Award of \$100 and a Certificate of Merit for the best unpublished contribution on Gastroenterology or allied subjects. Certificates will also be awarded those physicians whose contributions are deemed worthy.

All entries for the 1946 prize should be limited to 5,000 words, and must be received not later than May 1, 1946. Entries should be addressed to the National Gastroenterological Association, 1819 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

New Anti-Flu "Shots" Success, Army Reports

Washington, Jan. 12.—(AP.)—The Army's new anti-flu "shots" are producing encouraging results, the Surgeon General reported on January 12.

Preliminary indications, he said, are that the wartime-developed vaccine has reduced the incidence of influenza among men in uniform.

At the same time the U. S. Health Service reported that for the third successive week civilian influenza cases have declined from a peak of 148,688 in the week ended December 15.

Early in the fall the Army began vaccinating 7,000,000 men with a war-developed vaccine made from killed viruses of influenza "A" and "B," the two most common types.

Officers said reports so far show that "the incidence has been lower than what we might ordinarily have expected during an outbreak."

They declined to give specific figures.

In tests conducted before the mass vaccination the new material reduced the incidence of flu by about 75 per cent among those vaccinated with it, as compared with unvaccinated persons.

The U. S. Public Health Service announced that the number of cases reported throughout the nation for the week ended January 5 had dropped to 47,273.

"The indications are," declared an official of the health service who asked anonymity, "that both the incidence and mortality of the disease in the current outbreak are on the decline and that while the total number of cases may prove eventually to be comparable to the number in the epidemic of 1943-1944, the evidence is that the disease has not been so severe as it was then."—Los Angeles Times, January 13.

U. S. Population Up 8,000,000 In Five Years

Washington, Jan. 15.—(AP.)—The Census Bureau said on January 15, that during the five years ending July 1, 1945, the population of the United States, including armed forces overseas, increased by 8,000,000. Population as of that date was 139,621,431.